



## BUSINESS

### **Sun, Wind to Power Laguna Ranch**

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A ranch owned by Laguna Pueblo will soon turn to the sun and wind for energy.

Diversified Systems Manufacturing, a Native American-owned alternative energy development company, will design, install and maintain a wind turbine and solar panels at the Laguna Majors Ranch.

The ranch, 20 miles west of Albuquerque, is 10 miles away from the nearest power lines.

The wind tower and solar array will allow the ranch to operate as a self-contained community.

The pueblo awarded a \$203,679 contract to Diversified, of Albuquerque. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The 15.2 kilowatts of renewable energy the systems will generate will provide electricity for ranch houses and bunkhouses, security lighting, greenhouse operations, barns and workshops, as well as power for communications equipment and waste-water treatment.

The Laguna Majors Ranch provides activities for young people and adults including hiking, team building exercises, games and swimming.

Last spring, the company won an \$86,300 contract to build a solar array at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

The company announced the project was completed in November, three months early. That array, which tops a carport, is the largest commercial array in New Mexico and the largest on Indian lands in America, the company said.

The array ties into the cultural center building and will ultimately connect to PNM's electric grid and reduce the load the center draws from the utility.

The purpose of the project is to show the public renewable energy's benefits, including bill reduction and a decrease in the amount of natural resources needed to provide energy.

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